

**Purpose and Need**  
**Pinto Creek Erosion Control Reconstruction/Bank Stabilization**  
**Project**  
**USDA Forest Service**  
**Tonto National Forest**  
**Tonto Basin Ranger District**  
**Gila County, Arizona**

**Date:** August, 2019

**ID Team Leader:** Kelly Jardine

**Project Name:** Pinto Creek Erosion Control Reconstruction/Bank Stabilization

**Ranger District:** Tonto Basin

**Project type:** Resource Protection and Public Safety/Watershed Improvement

**Target start date:** August, 2019

**Target finish date:** September, 2019

Expected NEPA Documentation Type: Categorical Exclusion (DM required)

If Categorical Exclusion, select Category: 32.2 (3) Approve modify continue special uses, less than 5 acres

**Project location:** The proposed project is located near Roosevelt, Arizona. Pinto and Wildcat Creeks; T3N, R13E, Salt River Peak and Two Bar Mountain, AZ Quadrangles. *See Pinto Creek Project Report and Map.*

**Purpose and Need**

The purpose of the proposed project is to repair, reconstruct and stabilize embankments located along the northwestern edge of Pinto Creek and northern edge of Wildcat Creek to protect adjacent private residential developments during high flow periods in the creeks. The embankments are currently in a deteriorated condition and are at risk of failure from a high flow runoff event. The need is to comply with the Tonto National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (RMP) management prescriptions for a variety of renewable resources in RMP Area 6J, including providing for resource protection and public safety.

A recent wildfire in the watershed upgradient from Pinto and Wildcat Creeks has denuded the vegetation in the watershed which may increase flow volumes and decrease concentration times for runoff from a high intensity rainfall event. This situation adds time criticality to the purpose and need for the proposed action.

## **Proposed Action**

The proposed action includes activities that would accomplish the purpose and meet the need for the action. The bank stabilization would be conducted along approximately 1,200 feet of Pinto and Wildcat Creeks within a 14-acre portion of the creeks located on private land and US Forest Service lands administered by the Tonto National Forest. The proposed embankments would be constructed to a design of 6 feet wide, at the base, and 9 feet tall. The finished dimensions may vary dependent on the height of the existing embankment. No more than one cubic yard of material, per running foot of embankment, would be placed below the ordinary high water mark. The material for the project is available in an existing stockpile located at the Grapevine Airstrip located off of State Route 188, Milepost 237.4. Some vegetation may be removed in the process of placing the material but the removal will be minimized to the extent practicable.

The proposed action would accomplish the purpose and need as activities follow directions found in the RMP. The planning process would comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, Categorical Exclusion level of analysis and documentation, and the requirements/clearances for Heritage and Biological Resources.

## **Implementation Timeline**

Project construction would begin in late August or early September, 2019 and continue for approximately 30 days, until complete.